

October 25, 2006

**REFUGEE WORKING GROUP**  
**State Office Building**  
**Auditorium**

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m.

Governor Huntsman welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for their participation in the Working Group. The Governor started his address to the assembly by stating “The goodness of our State should be reflected by how we treat our refugee population.” The purpose of the Working Group is to find the gaps in refugee services and then address how we will fill those gaps. One objective is to get key decision makers in government to engage in the Working Group. Mayor Peter Corroon and the Governor are in harmony in wanting the Working Group to accomplish measurable objectives. The Governor outlined the history of refugees in Utah. Since 1995 refugees have primarily settled in Salt Lake County, mainly in Salt Lake City. In the future, refugees arriving in Utah may travel from possibly more diverse regions. The difference between refugees and immigrants was outlined. The Governor highlighted the impact of refugees on Utah. A life story of a Somali refugee was relayed to the attendees. Refugees are people with goals, hopes, and expectations. The Governor emphasized that the Working Group is discussing real people with needs and that we anticipate the process to have a “Can Do” approach. We need to identify the gaps and begin to fill them for those who need the services. The Governor’s objective for this Working Group, and into the future, is to have no service gaps that people will fall into.

Governor Huntsman introduced Mayor Peter Corroon and turned the podium over to him. Mayor Corroon thanked the Governor for the introduction. Salt Lake County does have a role in the refugee process. The County administers the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG). The Targeted Assistance Grant is operated through a contract with the Asian Association of Utah. 7,600 refugees have been served through this program. The Salt Lake Valley Health Department provides health screenings for refugees. Mayor Corroon reiterated that the purpose of the Working Group is to review current resettlement system, what are gaps and strengths, and propose solutions for any gaps that are identified. June 30, 2007 is the deadline for the Working Group to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Governor on possible gap solutions. The Mayor asked that the Working Group look into how Utah compares with other states. How refugees can eventually move out of the system is another area of interest to the Mayor. Economic development is an important part of this process. Mayor Corroon introduced Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director of Utah’s Department of Community and Culture and turned the time over to him.

Palmer DePaulis introduced himself. One of the offices operating out of Mr. DePaulis’ department is the Office of Ethnic Affairs. The Working Group has some broad implications for this group as it intertwines with the refugee process. As Mayor of Salt Lake City, Mr. DePaulis had the opportunity to interact with many in the community. He encouraged the Working Group to adopt “Can Do” process, learning from and with the

refugee population and the service agencies. Mr. DePaulis emphasized the need to incorporate all information into the process. Build on what has already been started and make this an interactive process. Mr. DePaulis will be the guide through a respectful process. He anticipates being able to summarize, provide good notes of the meetings, prod participation, and be a part of the process. Many parts at the beginning of the process will be general, broad knowledge. Later in the process the Working Group will deal with specific questions, issues, and comments.

The information packet provided to the meeting attendees contains a card with all of the meeting dates, times, and locations. This process will be short and intensive. There will not be a meeting in February because of many participants' involvement with the State legislative process. In May, the Working Group will summarize their findings and bring recommendations to the Governor and the Mayor so they can have them by the end of the fiscal year. The subsequent meetings will be held at the Salt Lake County Complex.

Mr. DePaulis apologized and explained the reason for the change of venue for today's meeting. He asked the attendees to review the Working Group Charter and outlined the Charter's main points. Mr. DePaulis emphasized the Working Group will make use of an outcome-driven process; not just talk but make good recommendations.

The Refugee Working Group on-line web site was introduced to the meeting attendees. From the web-site welcome page there are five area links: 1) Charter, 2) Calendar, Meeting Schedule and Agendas 3) Background Information, and 4) a resources area, and 5) Comments section which was highlighted and explained. Mr. DePaulis encouraged the participants to use the web site and the comments area as part of the process. The website is being provided through DWS web site as a service to the Refugee Working Group.

Mr. DePaulis explained that at the next meeting on Monday, November 13, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Salt Lake County complex, it is proposed to use the meeting to bring the attendees up-to-speed on where Utah currently is in the refugee process. Background and overview of the federal system and any changes, together with Refugee Resettlement Services will be highlighted. As part of the process comments will be taken throughout each meeting. Nametags will be provided beginning with the next meeting. Mr. DePaulis indicated he would like to see all the issues that need to be discussed brought up. He invites all comments to be voiced in a very respectful process. At any time during the process, please communicate with Palmer DePaulis at [palmer@utah.gov](mailto:palmer@utah.gov).

Mr. DePaulis asked for any questions regarding the process from the audience. Rebecca Sanchez indicated the cards with the dates also includes the website address for the Working Group. The second e-mail address on the date card is for communicating with the Working Group. The reason for evening meetings is to accommodate those who cannot leave jobs during the day.

Mr. DePaulis suggested that attendees bring other interested parties with them to the meetings. Tani Downing, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services,

requested that those representing Refugee Issues be consistent in their attendance so that the knowledge gained is cumulative. A question was asked regarding the meaning of fiscal year. Mr. DePaulis responded that the fiscal year in the State of Utah runs from July 1 through June 30. The same gentleman asked if the Working Group is looking at this upcoming fiscal year for proposed refugee funding. Mr. DePaulis indicated that is the intent.

No other questions, Mr. DePaulis thanked everyone for their attendance

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.